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Saint Lucia

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.

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Please recycle

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations[1]

International human rights treaties[2]

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified not accepted*
Ratification, accession or succession	ICERD (1990) CEDAW (1982) CRC (1993)	ICCPR (signature, 2011) OP-CRC-AC (2014) OP-CRC-SC (2013) CRPD (signature, 2011)	ICESCR ICCPR (signature, 2011) ICCPR-OP 2 CAT OP-CAT ICRMW CRPD (signature, 2011) ICPPED
Reservations and or declarations		OP-CRC-AC (declaration, art. 3 (2), age of recruitment at 18 years, 2014)	
Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action[3]		ICCPR (signature, 2011)	ICERD, art. 14 OP-ICESCR ICCPR (signature, 2011) ICCPR-OP 1 OP-CEDAW CAT OP-CRC-IC ICRMW OP-CRPD ICPPED

Other main relevant international instruments

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified*
Ratification, accession or succession	Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II[4] ILO fundamental conventions except No. 138[5]	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Palermo Protocol[6]	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Conventions on refugees and stateless persons[7] Convention against

Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified*
		Discrimination in Education
		ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189[8]
		Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions[9]

1. In 2014, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Saint Lucia ratify the amendment to article 43 (2) of CRC, OP-CRC-IC, ICESCR, ICCPR, CAT, ICRMW, CRPD and ICPPED.[10] It also recommended that the Government ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)[11] and the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.[12]

2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that the Government ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.[13]

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

3. The United Nations subregional team for Barbados indicated that Saint Lucia participated in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Family Law and Domestic Violence Legal and Judicial Reform Project, as part of which four bills were developed and submitted to Eastern Caribbean Governments for consideration: the Status of Children Bill, which seeks to remove the legal disabilities of children born out of wedlock; the Child Care and Adoption Bill, which provides for the protection of children from various forms of abuse; the Child Justice Bill, which is in accordance with articles 37 and 40 of CRC; and the Domestic Violence Bill, which aims to protect victims of domestic abuse.[14] The bills were before the Attorney General's Chambers for final review and submission to Cabinet for approval.[15]

4. The subregional team recommended that the Government complete the review of the draft legislation relating to domestic violence and the rights of children and submit it to the Cabinet for approval as soon as possible.[16]

5. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Saint Lucia undertake the legislative reform necessary to bring its laws in line with the Convention, using the OECS model Child Justice Bill to guide the revision process.[17] It also urged Saint Lucia to adopt and implement legislation in line with the OECS Status of Children Bill to remove any distinction between children born in and out of wedlock.[18]

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

6. The subregional team recalled that Saint Lucia had a Parliamentary Commissioner, similar to an ombudsman, who was charged with protecting citizens against abuse of administrative power. However, the Commissioner had a limited mandate and was not accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights as a national human rights institution.[19] The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its recommendation that Saint Lucia expeditiously establish an independent mechanism for monitoring human rights, including a specific mechanism for monitoring children's rights, and ensure its independence to

guarantee full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles).[20]

7. The subregional team considered that, although Saint Lucia had made efforts to be responsive to some of the recommendations received during its first universal periodic review, the country's ability to do so effectively would be greatly strengthened by the establishment of an institutionalized, permanent mechanism to coordinate government engagement with international and regional human rights mechanisms aimed at implementing recommendations and submitting the required reports.[21] The team recommended that the Government establish an interministerial, institutionalized mechanism to monitor and report on the implementation of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms.[22]

8. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the establishment of the National Action Child Protection Committee (NACPC) in 2012. It recommended that Saint Lucia provide NACPC with sufficient authority and resources to effectively implement and coordinate comprehensive, coherent and consistent child rights policies.[23]

9. The Committee was concerned that Saint Lucia lacked a comprehensive policy and strategy to effectively monitor progress in the implementation of children's rights and reiterated its recommendation that Saint Lucia develop a comprehensive national plan of action for the full implementation of CRC without further delay.[24]

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

Reporting status

Treaty body	*Concluding observations included in previous review*	*Latest report submitted since previous review*	*Latest concluding observations*	*Reporting status*
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 2004 (reviewed in the absence of a report	-	-	Initial report overdue since 1991
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	May 2006	-	-	Seventh report overdue since 2007
Committee on the Rights of the Child	June 2005	2011	June 2014	Combined fifth and sixth reports due in 2020, initial OPSC report due in 2015 initial OPAC report due in 2016

10. The subregional team indicated that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) was supporting the Government in the completion of its overdue report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.[25] The team recommended that Saint Lucia continue to work with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN-Women in the preparation of reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.[26]

B. Cooperation with special procedures[27]

	Status during previous cycle	*Current status*
Standing invitation	No	No
Visits undertaken	-	-
Visits agreed to in principle	-	-
Visits requested	-	-
Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals	In the period under review no communications were sent.	
Follow-up reports and missions		

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

11. According to the subregional team, the Government has had very limited engagement with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) regarding the provision of technical assistance in meeting its international human rights obligations or facilitating human rights training and education.[28] The team recommended that Saint Lucia seek technical assistance from OHCHR to improve efforts to meet its international human rights obligations.[29]

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

12. The subregional team stated that the Constitution prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex, race, place of origin, political opinion, colour or creed, but no specific legislation addressed discrimination based on disability, language, sexual orientation, gender identity or social status.[30]

13. It recommended that Saint Lucia review the effectiveness of government mechanisms intended to support the achievement of gender equality; address gender-based discrimination; and institutionalize the collection of sex-disaggregated data that could be used in gender and poverty analyses.[31]

14. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Saint Lucia mainstream gender equality policies in the education sector, ensuring that gender issues and sensitivity training become an integral, substantive and mandatory component of all teacher training at all levels.[32]

15. The subregional team noted civil society reports that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual individuals remained vulnerable to persecution and harassment on a daily basis. Activists had also reported that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual individuals had been subjected to serious violent crimes that had not been investigated or for which no one had

been prosecuted. In many cases, victims chose not to report the attacks for fear of prosecution under "sodomy laws".[33]

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

16. The subregional team indicated that since the first universal periodic review a number of extrajudicial killings by the police had been reported, including 12 cases in 2011. The Government enlisted, through the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Jamaica Constabulary Force to investigate the killings. In early 2015 the Prime Minister announced that the Government had received the report of the investigation carried out by the Force.[34]

17. The subregional team added that, on 8 March 2015, the Prime Minister issued a public statement announcing that the report indicated that all of the shootings reviewed were "fake encounters" staged by the police to legitimize the killings. Also, as previously alleged by the media and human rights activists, the investigators established the existence of a police blacklist or death list. The Jamaica Constabulary Force investigators also confirmed that senior police officers were uncooperative and attempted to sabotage certain aspects of the investigation.[35]

18. The subregional team noted that the investigators made 31 recommendations, including that all police officers involved in the killings be prosecuted. The Government announced its intention to appoint a joint committee under the Prime Minister's chairmanship to oversee the implementation of the recommendations and to allocate resources for the appointment of special prosecutors to assist in the prosecution of any suspects, should the Director of Public Prosecutions decide to do so. Also, the Prime Minister indicated that his administration would require human rights training for all police recruits and police officers.[36]

19. The subregional team stated that, according to a 2012 United Nations Development Programme report on citizen security, the number of gang homicides in Saint Lucia was growing.[37] In 2011, the Government launched the "United against crime" campaign to get citizens more involved in fighting crime and, in 2014, it passed legislation criminalizing gang-related activity.[38] The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the adoption of the Anti-Gang Act.[39] The Committee was concerned, however, that the climate of fear, insecurity, threat and violence linked to gangs impeded children from enjoying their childhood. It recommended that Saint Lucia develop a comprehensive public policy to deal with that problem.[40]

20. According to the subregional team, the legislative framework addressing domestic and sexual violence has not been adequately implemented or enforced. Saint Lucia enacted the Domestic Violence Law in 1994 and amended the Criminal Code nine years later to conform with the Law. However, there were critical shortcomings in the Law, such as the absence of provisions on marital rape, which left women highly vulnerable to abuse. No provisions had been incorporated to define violence against women as distinct from intrafamily, family or domestic violence. Alleged perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence were only prosecuted if the victim pressed charges. Lawyers in Saint Lucia indicated to the subregional team that it could be difficult to meet the legal requirements to prosecute alleged perpetrators of rape and other sexual violence due to a lack of corroboration.[41]

21. The subregional team indicated that in 2012 the Government had launched an island-wide initiative to curb domestic and gender-based violence.[42] The Department of Gender Relations also ran the Women's Support Centre, which provided shelter, counselling and residential services, a 24-hour hotline and assistance in finding

employment for victims. Various non-governmental organizations also provided counselling, referral, education and empowerment services. However, crisis centres in Saint Lucia were significantly underfunded.[43]

22. The subregional team noted that the police had indicated an increase in the reporting of sexual crimes against women and children. However, there was no evidence that due process was followed, and no indication that there had been an increase in prosecutions. Given that marital rape was still not acknowledged within the legal framework, the team called into question the effectiveness of the response of the justice system to sexual violence against women.[44]

23. The subregional team recommended that the Government complete, through a broad-based multisectoral approach, its national plan of action or strategy for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women and ensure that the relevant mechanisms are in place for its systematic implementation, monitoring and evaluation;[45] establish a national multisectoral committee on gender-based violence;[46] and include marital rape in the legislation without conditionalities.[47]

24. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about the increase in the number of cases of child abuse and neglect.[48] Also, while noting that Saint Lucia had addressed child sexual exploitation and abuse, it was concerned that cases of such abuse appeared to be increasing.[49] For the subregional team, child sexual abuse remained a serious concern. Saint Lucia had adopted a mandatory reporting protocol to address child abuse but sexual violence against children often went unreported. This was due to a number of reasons, including the common practice of out-of-court settlements where the abuser pays a parent an agreed sum of money to avoid prosecution, although such arrangements were illegal. Also, there was a reluctance to report sexual violence because of what lawyers described as an "insensitive and underequipped justice system" and the fear that bringing a case would undermine the privacy and self-esteem of child victims.[50]

25. However, the subregional team added that, since the 2011 universal periodic review, Saint Lucia had continued to engage in awareness-raising on the issue with the support of UNICEF. In 2013, the Government launched the "Break the silence" campaign, which empowered children, families and victims of sexual abuse to report cases of sexual offences and to break the stigma surrounding the issue. In the framework of the campaign, workshops were conducted, including with the participation of religious leaders, sports personalities and other public figures.[51]

26. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Saint Lucia, inter alia, prevent and combat child abuse and neglect in all settings[52] and that it ensure that acts of sexual abuse and exploitation are effectively investigated, that perpetrators are brought to justice and that settlements involving financial arrangements between perpetrators and parents of child victims are prohibited. The Committee further recommended that Saint Lucia provide accessible, confidential, child-friendly and effective complaint procedures and review all sexual offences legislation.[53]

27. The Committee reiterated its concern that corporal punishment was still seen as a lawful way of disciplining children, both under the 1972 Children and Young Persons Act and the 1999 Education Act, and continued to be practised. It recommended that Saint Lucia amend its legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment.[54] The subregional team noted that, although Saint Lucia did not accept any of the recommendations arising from the 2011 universal periodic review regarding corporal punishment,[55] the Government did engage in awareness-raising activities such as a national consultation on the theme "The future we want". The Government had also launched training sessions and parenting programmes to promote alternative forms of punishment and new ways of interacting with children.[56]

28. The Committee reiterated its concern about the persistence of child labour in the informal economy. It recommended that Saint Lucia ensure compliance with article 32 of the and relevant ILO standards, and strengthen programmes aimed at preventing child labour as well as the capacity of the labour inspectorate to effectively monitor the implementation of child labour laws and places of work, especially in the informal sectors.[57]

29. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) commended the passage of the Counter-Trafficking Act in 2010 and, in particular, the Act's strong victims' assistance and protection provisions.[58] However, while the Act acknowledged the importance of creating a "safety plan" to protect trafficking victims from threats, reprisals and intimidation by traffickers, it did not articulate the kinds of protection available to them. In order to further strengthen the Act, UNHCR encouraged Saint Lucia to amend it to include the right of trafficking victims to seek asylum.[59] UNHCR also recommended that the Government maintain and strengthen efforts to ensure that victims of trafficking are provided with an opportunity to seek asylum;[60] and develop standard operating procedures for identifying and appropriately channelling cases of victims of trafficking who express a fear of returning to their home country and who therefore should be given access to an asylum procedure.[61]

30. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that children under 18 were coerced to engage in commercial sex. It recommended that Saint Lucia, inter alia, implement the Counter-Trafficking Act and ensure the effective prosecution and punishment of those who exploit children for the purposes of prostitution, forced labour or pornography.[62]

C. Administration of justice and the rule of law

31. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Saint Lucia to ensure that all persons under 18 are provided with the same protection and guarantees in the area of juvenile justice.[63]

32. The Committee welcomed the initiatives to assist children in conflict with the law. Nevertheless, it was concerned that the age of criminal responsibility, which stands at 12, was not clearly established in all relevant legislation; at the lack of alternative sentencing for children who are in conflict with the law; and that the Criminal Code provides that 16 and 17-year-old children may be tried as adults, sentenced to life imprisonment and be subject to the death penalty. The Committee urged Saint Lucia, inter alia, to ensure that the age of criminal responsibility is set at 12 in all relevant legislation; to abolish the provisions of the Criminal Code allowing for the imposition of a life sentence or the death penalty on children aged 16 or 17 at the time of committing the crime; and to promote alternatives to detention and provide effective rehabilitation services.[64]

D. Right to family life

33. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that Saint Lucia had not yet enacted legislation to ensure effective monitoring of the conditions of alternative care and had no provisions to promote family-based alternative care for children deprived of their biological family environment. It recommended that Saint Lucia ensure that adequate facilities exist for both boys and girls in need of protection, in cases where institutional care is unavoidable, and that children in need of protection are not mixed with children in conflict with the law.[65]

34. The Committee welcomed the "Catch-up campaign" launched in 2013 relating to the promotion of universal, free and timely birth registration of children.[66]

E. Freedom of expression and right to participate in public and political life

35. UNESCO recalled that freedom of expression was guaranteed in the 1978 Constitution but that defamation and libel were considered criminal offences by the Criminal Code punishable to up to five years of imprisonment.[67] UNESCO recommended that Saint Lucia decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that is in accordance with international standards.[68]

36. UNESCO reported that, as at December 2014, a freedom of information bill had been drafted but not yet enacted.[69] UNESCO encouraged the Government to continue with the introduction of an access to information law that is in accordance with international standards.[70]

37. UNESCO registered no killing of journalists in Saint Lucia between 2008 and 2013. Journalists and media professionals generally worked in a safe environment.[71]

38. The subregional team stated that although women comprised the majority of civil servants, they were underrepresented in roles of political leadership. There were currently three women elected to Parliament representing approximately 17 per cent of the country's parliamentarians.[72]

F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

39. The subregional team reported that, in 2012, the Government enacted the amended Labour Act 2006. The Act sets the minimum age for employment at 15 and prohibits the employment of children who have not yet reached the minimum age for compulsory education.[73] The new labour code also further defines worker rights and increases penalties for violations. The law specifies the right of most workers to form and join independent unions, to strike and to bargain collectively. The law prohibits anti-union discrimination and workers fired for union activity have the right to reinstatement.[74]

40. The subregional team stated that gender stereotyping still resulted in a traditional division of labour that relegated women to less stable, lower skilled and lower paying areas of work. According to reports on the impact of the global financial crisis on the labour market in Saint Lucia, unemployment had increased among both men and women, with women still having higher rates of unemployment, although the gap was much narrower than before the crisis. Recent reports also noted that the poorest 40 per cent of households in Saint Lucia were more likely to be female headed.[75]

G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

41. The subregional team indicated that, although Saint Lucia continued to be affected by the global economic crisis, it had worked hard to overcome it. From 2006 to 2010, its gross domestic product had almost doubled and per capita income had increased. The Pan American Health Organization has noted that during that period the share of persons over the age of 60 had increased to 11.9 per cent of the population, which showed the importance of addressing the needs of the elderly in all government development planning policies and programmes.[76]

42. The subregional team stated that the Government had developed a social protection policy and plans were under way to harmonize the public assistance programme, which provided cash transfers to poor and indigent persons. Another programme provided mainly psychosocial support to indigent persons.[77]

43. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that Saint Lucia implemented targeted social assistance programmes, but it was concerned about the increasing percentage of households classified as poor. It urged Saint Lucia to, inter alia, address the high level of child poverty, adopt the draft national social protection policy and implement the social protection reform initiatives of the Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment.[78]

44. The Committee was concerned that many families faced food insecurity and lacked appropriate assistance in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities. It recommended that Saint Lucia render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians, in particular in situations of poverty and in rural areas.[79]

H. Right to health

45. The subregional team indicated that the Government continued to work to implement a universal health-care coverage model. In recent years, the health infrastructure had been upgraded, new programmes had been initiated, services had become more readily available, immunization coverage had remained high and maternal and infant mortality had been reduced.[80]

46. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted progress regarding the overall quality of health service provision. It recommended that the Government ensure adequate provision of prenatal and postnatal care, address the increasing number of children born with low birth weight and obese children and increase the coverage of services to children with developmental disabilities.[81]

47. The subregional team observed that whereas abortions were considered illegal, the Criminal Code made it legal to terminate pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. Abortions were also allowed in cases where the pregnancy involved a risk to the life of the pregnant woman and non-termination would result in grave permanent injury of a physical or mental health nature to the woman.[82]

48. The subregional team indicated that the Ministry of Health had developed a reproductive health policy that was expected to be approved in 2015.[83] It observed a relatively high incidence of teenage pregnancy and that the CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development had approved a strategy to reduce the number of adolescent pregnancies in each country of the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean by at least 20 per cent over the period 2014-2019.[84]

49. The subregional team noted that parental consent was not required for teenagers to access health services and receive information regarding sexual and reproductive rights. The age of consent for girls was currently 16 but is not clearly specified for boys.[85]

50. The subregional team stated that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS was estimated to be less than 1 per cent of the general population, with the number of new infections appearing to be stable. Regardless of the assessed rate, it was likely to be an underestimation.[86] The team also reported on the development of an HIV/AIDS strategic plan for 2011–2014 that focused on three vulnerable groups: men who have sex with men, sex workers and pregnant women.[87]

51. The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the construction of the National Mental Wellness Centre and the review of the country's mental health system. It

recommended that Saint Lucia strengthen the quality of the mental health services and programmes available to children.[88]

52. The Committee was concerned at the high prevalence of alcohol abuse and drug use by adolescents. It recommended that Saint Lucia address the phenomenon and provide access to treatment, counselling, recovery and social reintegration, as previously recommended.[89]

I. Right to education

53. UNESCO noted that the right to education was enshrined not in the Constitution but in Act 41/199, article 14 of which reads: "Subject to available resources, all persons are entitled to receive an educational programme appropriate to their needs."[90]

54. UNESCO welcomed the adoption of various plans and programmes to further include marginalized youth and reduce the number of dropouts. However, the law on education had not been amended and insufficient measures had been taken to address persisting forms of discrimination.[91] UNESCO recommended that the Government further promote inclusive education in all its aspects.[92]

55. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the efforts to provide universal access to early childhood education. It was concerned, however, about insufficient access to education by the most disadvantaged and recommended that Saint Lucia, inter alia, improve the accessibility and quality of education.[93]

56. The same Committee welcomed the increase in enrolment in secondary schools, the decrease in dropout rates among secondary school students, and programmes targeting underprivileged children and children at risk of dropping out of school.[94]

57. The Committee recommended that Saint Lucia mainstream gender equality policies in education, ensuring that gender issues and sensitivity training are made an integral, substantive and mandatory component of all teacher training at all levels.[95]

58. The Committee welcomed the incorporation of a comprehensive, life skills-based programme entitled "Health and family life education" in the curricula of all primary and secondary schools. It recommended that Saint Lucia, inter alia, increase the availability of confidential and youth-friendly health services and ensure the availability of contraceptive services to adolescents without parental consent.[96]

59. The subregional team indicated that the Government had improved the provision of special education by establishing centres for that purpose in Vieux Fort and Soufriere, bringing the total number of special education centres to four. However, it noted that there was no national screening process for children with learning disabilities.[97] The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that sufficient and adequate facilities for children with disabilities were lacking. It recommended that Saint Lucia ensure that schools provide inclusive education. It also recommended that schools and care facilities be adequately staffed and funded.[98]

J. Cultural rights

60. UNESCO recommended that Saint Lucia, being a party to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), fully implement the provisions that promote access to and participation in cultural

heritage and creative expressions and, as such, are conducive to realizing the right to take part in cultural life. UNESCO also recommended that, in doing so, Saint Lucia give due consideration to the participation of communities, practitioners, cultural actors and organizations from the civil society, as well as vulnerable groups.[99]

K. Persons with disabilities

61. The subregional team reported that no specific legislation protected the rights of persons with disabilities.[100] The law did not prohibit discrimination against persons with physical, sensory, intellectual and mental disabilities in employment, education, air travel and other transportation and access to health care.[101]

62. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the development of a draft national policy for persons with disabilities. It was concerned that the reforms necessary to secure the rights and active participation of children with disabilities in all spheres of society had not taken place. The Committee recommended that Saint Lucia adopt and implement the draft national policy.[102]

63. The subregional team indicated that there was no rehabilitation facility for persons with physical disabilities, although the Ministry of Health operated a community-based rehabilitation programme in individuals' homes.[103]

L. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

64. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about children of foreign migrants in Saint Lucia, especially those who were undocumented, and the challenges and discrimination that they could face in accessing social services. It recommended that Saint Lucia develop a national policy and guidelines for all ministries, agencies and departments providing services to children of migrants and all children affected by migration.[104]

65. UNHCR recalled that Saint Lucia was not party to the conventions on refugees and stateless persons and that it had not passed legislation on nor established a national asylum procedure. However, the Government had respected the principle of non-refoulement. As at December 2014, the country was hosting three refugees.[105]

66. UNHCR had received information suggesting that Saint Lucia was at times a point of transit for mixed migratory movements of undocumented individuals attempting to reach North America.[106] UNHCR noted a need for regional cooperation in data collection and analysis, protection-sensitive entry systems and reception arrangements.[107]

67. UNHCR stated that it was prepared to provide support to the Government to develop a national refugee policy, strengthen its capacity to manage mixed migration flows and assist persons in need of international protection.[108]

68. UNHCR recommended the Government to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol,[109] the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[110] and that it continue to consult with UNHCR on the issue of mixed migration flows.[111]

M. Environmental issues

69. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that Saint Lucia had introduced the National Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Plan and recommended that the

Government develop strategies to reduce the vulnerabilities for children and families which may be produced by climate change.[112]

Notes

[1] Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org/. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Saint Lucia from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/10/LCA/2).

[2] The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[3] Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

[4] Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, at https://www.icrc.org/IHL.

[5] International Labour Organization Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation)

Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

[6] Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

[7] 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

[8] International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

[9] Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, at https://www.icrc.org/IHL.

[10] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, para. 64. See also the submission of the United Nations subregional team for Barbados for the universal periodic review of Saint Lucia, p. 1.

[11] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, para. 59 (d).

[12] Ibid., paras. 38 and 39 (e).

[13] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Saint Lucia, para. 30.1.

[14] See subregional team submission, pp. 1-2.

[15] Ibid., p. 2.

[16] Ibid. See also CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 8-9.

[17] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, para. 9 (a).

[18] Ibid., paras. 8-9.

[19] See subregional team submission, p. 2.

[20] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 18-19.

[21] See subregional team submission, p. 2.

[22] Ibid., p. 3.

[23] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 12-13. See also subregional team submission, p. 5.

[24] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 10-11.

[25] See subregional team submission, p. 3.

[26] Ibid.

[27] For the titles of special procedures mandate holders, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx and www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx.

[28] See subregional team submission, p. 3.

[29] Ibid.

[30] Ibid.

[31] See subregional team submission, pp. 4-5.

[32] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, para. 55 (a).

[33] See subregional team submission, p. 6.

[34] Ibid., pp. 7-8.

[35] Ibid., p. 8.

[36] Ibid.

[37] See subregional team submission, p. 7.

[38] Ibid.

[39] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, para. 3 (a).

[40] Ibid., paras. 34-35.

[41] See subregional team submission, p. 4.

[42] Ibid.

[43] Ibid.

[44] Ibid.

[45] See subregional team submission, p. 5.

[46] Ibid.

[47] Ibid.

[48] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 30-31.

[49] Ibid.

[50] See subregional team submission, p. 6.

[51] Ibid.

[52] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 30-31.
[53] Ibid., paras. 32-33.
[54] Ibid., paras. 28-29.
[55] For the full text of the recommendation, see A/HRC/17/6, paras. 89.81 (Germany), 89.82 (Costa Rica), 89.83 (Slovenia) and 89.84 (Italy).
[56] See subregional team submission, p. 6. See also UNESCO submission, para. 29.
[57] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 58-59.
[58] See UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Saint Lucia, p. 2.
[59] Ibid., p. 5.
[60] Ibid.
[61] Ibid.
[62] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 60-61.
[63] Ibid., para. 9.
[64] Ibid., paras. 62-63.
[65] Ibid., paras. 38-39.
[66] Ibid., para. 5 (a).
[67] See UNESCO submission, paras. 22-23.
[68] Ibid., para. 32.
[69] Ibid., para. 24.
[70] Ibid., para. 31.
[71] Ibid., para. 27.
[72] See subregional team submission, p. 4.
[73] Ibid., p. 8. See also CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, para. 3 (b).
[74] See subregional team submission, p. 9.
[75] Ibid., p. 3.
[76] Ibid., p. 9.
[77] Ibid.
[78] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 50-51.
[79] Ibid., paras. 36-37.
[80] See subregional team submission, p. 9.
[81] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 42-43.
[82] See subregional team submission, p. 10.
[83] Ibid.
[84] Ibid.
[85] Ibid.
[86] See subregional team submission, p. 6.
[87] Ibid., p. 9.
[88] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 44-45.
[89] Ibid., paras. 48-49.
[90] See UNESCO submission, paras. 2-3.
[91] Ibid., para. 29.
[92] Ibid., para. 30.3.
[93] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 54-55.
[94] Ibid.
[95] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, para. 55.
[96] Ibid., paras. 46-47.
[97] See Subregional team submission, p. 10.
[98] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, para. 41.
[99] See UNESCO submission, para. 33.
[100] See Subregional team submission, p. 3.
[101] Ibid., p. 10.
[102] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, para. 40. See also subregional team submission, p. 10.
[103] See Subregional team submission, p. 10.
[104] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 56-57.
[105] See UNHCR submission, pp. 1-2 and 5-6.
[106] Ibid., p. 1.

[107] Ibid., p. 4.
[108] Ibid., p. 3.
[109] Ibid.
[110] See UNHCR submission, p. 6.
[111] Ibid., p. 5.
[112] See CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4, paras. 52-53.